

I am a 25 year veteran of "terrestrial" Radio, (Still in the business) and yet I am asking you to allow satellite radio to continue providing "local" Traffic and Weather.

As terrestrial radio has continued to consolidate and downsize, there has been an effect on Severe Weather coverage... no "live" persons at stations covering severe weather, in many areas, the only Severe weather coverage is the EAS system set to "auto" and providing basic and minimal coverage. As a lifelong resident of "Tornado Alley," I submit to you that this is NOT sufficient. Even basic weather forecasting at many stations is "canned" by meteorologists who are not local... sometimes only updated twice in a given day. XM has given me more "local" weather coverage already than the Clear Channel and Citadel stations have here in Oklahoma.

Radio is supposed to be licensed to "Serve in the Public Interest," but that has interfered with "Maximizing shareholder value" and has pushed many citizens to Satellite services such as XM. I have enjoyed the VARIETY of programming that XM provides, and that I voluntarily PAY for month after month. Why is the NAB and other entities so concerned about MY paying extra for XM, when the very reason I've turned to Satellite radio is because the member stations of the NAB have decided that VARIETY is "bad for business."

This situation is (In my opinion) no different from Cable vs "broadcast" TV... Cable provided me with many more choices, including The WEATHER CHANNEL. My local TV stations are not suffering because of Jim Cantore's coverage of the weather.. WHY PUNISH someone for recognizing a "NEED" and FILLING that need??

I would ask that you send a message to "terrestrial" radio: Reject the NAB petition 04-160. Allow XM to continue providing Traffic and Weather to ANY and ALL areas.

Thank You.

Todd R Stuart